

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, entry of this amendment and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 and 11 are pending in this application. Claims 10 has been canceled.

Claims 10 was objected to as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 10 has been canceled. Accordingly, this objection is moot.

Claims 1 and 3-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yamada (U.S. Patent 6,996,764). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada. Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zafer et al. (article entitled "Performance Comparison of Selected DC-Free Codes for PR1-Equalized Magnetic Recording Channels").

The present claims now recite "wherein **the second finite state transition diagram includes states defined based on values of a non-return to zero [NRZ] coding of states in the first finite state transition table.**" (Claims 1, 8, 9, and 11) This limitation is supported by paragraphs 82-84 of the specification. In the present invention, some of the states in the second finite state transition diagram are NRZ coded states from the first finite state transition diagram. Figure 8 shows an exemplary state-transition table corresponding to the recited first finite state transition diagram. Figure 9 shows an exemplary state-transition table corresponding to the recited second finite state transition diagram. For example, states S0 to S9 in Figure 9 correspond to those states in Figure 8 where the immediately preceding NRZ code is a "0". Similarly, states S5 to S9 in Figure 9 correspond to states in Figure 8 where the immediately preceding NRZ code is a "1". Applicants

respectfully assert that Yamada and Zafer do not disclose a finite state transition diagram having states defined based on an NRZ coding of another finite state transition diagram as required in the present invention. Accordingly, for at least this reason, Yamada and Zafer (alone or in combination) fail to meet this limitation and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

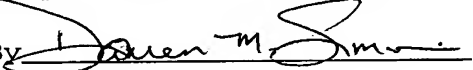
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

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Respectfully submitted,

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